



WING BEAT NEWS



REGION 2—SACRAMENTO VALLEY/CENTRAL SIERRA COUNTIES

Plumas, Butte, Glenn, Colusa, Yolo, Solano, Yuba, Sutter, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Calaveras, Alpine, Amador, El Dorado, Placer, Nevada and Sierra



SPRING 2003

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SPRING TURKEY HUNTING

Scott Gardner, DFG wild turkey biologist, says that the 2003 spring turkey season is going to be very good. The spring weather in 2002 produced an above average crop of young turkeys.

Spring turkey season is from March 29- May 4, 2003. The spring season bag and possession limit is one bearded turkey per day and three per season. A bearded turkey is one having a beard visible through the breast feathers. An Upland Game Bird Stamp is required to hunt turkeys.

Spring shooting hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to 4:00 p.m.

In California, the Rio Grande turkeys are found in the blue oak covered foothills and sometimes in the Central Valley river bottom habitat. When scouting an area for turkey sign look for tracks, feathers, scratching, dusting areas and droppings. Look for dusting areas with tracks in them or roost trees with droppings and feathers under them. In dry areas, search around water sources for turkey tracks. The best times to look or listen for turkeys include the early morning hours from one-half hour before sunrise until mid-morning, and late in the evening as the turkeys go to roost.

The male turkey gobbles primarily for two reasons: to attract hens for breeding purposes, and asserting dominance. Although more common in the spring, gobbles can be heard throughout the year.

Turkeys also "yelp". Both gobblers and hens, as well as young turkeys (jakes and jennies) will use one form or another of the yelp, often as a basic communication call.

There are many different types of yelps, ranging from quiet tree yelps made by hens while still on the roost, to louder, coarse gobbler yelps made by both adult and juvenile males. The translation of any yelp depends largely on the call's volume, intensity, cadence or rhythm, and frequency, or how often it's repeated or the length of the call's duration. A tree yelp, for instance, may contain only three or four low-volume calls, while a turkey that's become separated from the flock may yelp 18 or 20 times in a row, and with much more enthusiasm and volume.

If you do not hear gobblers calling, try a crow call, owl call, shock call, or predator call in early morning or just before dark. Gobblers will often respond, giving away their location.

The most effective way to call a spring gobbler is by reproducing the sounds a hen makes. The easiest calls to master are the friction calls (box, peg and slate, peg and glass, or push button). Diaphragm mouth calls are the most versatile calls but require much practice.

Beginners should remember that it is better to call too softly than too loudly, and to call too rarely than too frequently. Timing, or rhythm, can be more important than the actual quality of sound.

The best camouflage clothing is both protective and comfortable. Hands, face, and gun should be camouflaged. The illusion of depth is the key to great camouflage clothing. Earth tone colorations and careful arrangement of simulated limbs, leaves, sticks, and twigs in clothing can make one disappear into the surrounding terrain. Never wear clothing that contains the colors red, white, or blue because they can be mistaken for colors found on wild turkeys.

Shot size used to hunt wild turkeys is typically #4, #5, or #6. A turkey hunter shoots for a specific spot on the bird, namely the head and neck. Multiple pellet hits in this area is the best way to bag a wild turkey.

Jakes are 1-year old or younger toms which have spent the fall establishing dominance among themselves. They usually avoid the older toms and come silently to a hen call.

Most of us would like to shoot the biggest, oldest gobbler. He is likely to be the dominant one within a flock. When watching a small group of gobblers in the spring as they approach a hen or come to your calling, look for the long beard that does most or all of the strutting. The other gobblers around

the dominant bird will often strut, too, but usually they will not strut as long or as fully fanned. In addition to establishing hunting regulations that promote healthy wild turkey populations, another key component of the Department's management efforts for wild turkeys is an aggressive trap-and-transplant program. For many years, the Department has expanded the Rio Grande Wild Turkey into many new locations in lower elevation oak woodlands. Most public lands at this elevation now have wild turkeys and the Department has focused transplant efforts on the Merriam's Wild Turkey. This type of wild turkey is adapted for higher elevation habitats, many of which are publicly owned national forests.

Proper Use of Decoys - By the *National Wild Turkey Federation*

- 1) A decoy should never be visible while being transported, cover it.
- 2) Whenever possible, set-up by a "stand" tree that is wider than your shoulders and taller than your head.
- 3) From your seated position, identify the clearest line of vision to your front. Establish a "sight line" that allows you 100 yards visibility. Then set your decoy(s) approximately 20 yards from your position on the line.
- 4) Should you see another hunter (especially if he/she is close to your "line of sight") call out to them in a loud, clear voice. Their presence has already compromised your location and a "soft" call may only confuse them, rather than alerting them to your presence.
- 5) If you are calling over decoys and then elect to move to a new location, check carefully to ensure that no one is stalking your decoys. Check before leaving your "stand" tree. Should you see someone in the area, rule 4 applies.

Plan to attend the sixth annual free turkey hunting training seminar on Saturday, March 1, 2003, from 9AM to 3:30 pm at the Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church, 11427 Fair Oaks Blvd in Fair Oaks. See news article in this issue. Turkey hunting seminars in Chico, Oakley and Walnut Creek have been scheduled. See news article in this issue.

Places to Hunt Wild Turkeys with a Reservation (Reservations may only be required for the first weekend or first few days of turkey season)

Spenceville Wildlife Area (11,213 acres - Type C Area) and **Daugherty Hill WA** (4,200 acres - Type C Area) - Both WA's are 20 miles east of Marysville. Permits issued by drawing at the DFG, Region 2 office for Sat., Sun., and Wed., for the first 9 days of spring turkey season. Non-reservation public hunting begins Monday, April 7, 2003. No reservations needed during the fall season. For maps call DFG Region 2 at (916) 358-2900. See reservation info.

Oroville Wildlife Area (11,871 acres -Type C Area) West of Oroville CA. All spring turkey hunting by reservation only. No fall turkey hunting on this area. For maps call DFG, Region 2 at (916) 358-2900.

Reservation Info:

Spenceville Wildlife Area and Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area - Drawing Open to All Hunt Dates: March 29, March 30, April 2, April 5, and April 6, 2003

Oroville Wildlife Area - Drawing Open to All Hunt Periods: March 29-30, April 12-13, and April 26-27, 2003 Contact: (916) 358-2900
How to Apply for Spenceville, Daugherty Hill and Oroville WA's: Fill out a standard, 4x6 US postal card with the hunter's name, address, phone and hunting license number. Include which area you are applying for and your choice of hunt dates in order of preference. Up to two hunters may apply per postcard and both must include their hunting license number. You may submit only one application for each of the three wildlife area drawings. Send completed postcards to: Department of Fish and Game, 1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A, Rancho Cordova, California 95670. All applications must be received by 5:00pm on Wednesday, March 12, 2003 and the public drawing will be held on Thursday, March 13, 2003. Each successful applicant will receive a permit, map and instructions by March 19, 2003 via mail. Successful applicants will also be posted at the address listed above. Forty spaces per day are available at Spenceville WA, 21 per day at Daugherty Hill WA and 15 per hunt period at Oroville WA.

Lake Sonoma - 14 miles west of Healdsburg. Fall and spring turkey hunting by reservation only. For information contact the DFG, Region 3 at 707 944-5500. No other hunting allowed.

Lake Sonoma Spring Turkey Hunt- Area 2 - Drawing Open to All Hunt Date: March 29 and March 30, 2003 Contact: (707) 944-5500 How to Apply: Ten hunters will be drawn for each hunt, and each hunter can take one (1) hunting guest. Applicants may apply for only one hunt day in each season. Fill out a postcard with the hunter's name, address, phone number, hunting license number and hunt date for which you are applying. Send completed postcards (one name per card) to: Department of Fish and Game, Lake Sonoma Spring Turkey Hunt, PO Box 47, Yountville, CA 94599. All applications must be received by 5:00 pm on Thursday, February 27, 2003 and the drawing will be held on Friday, February 28, 2003.

Lake Sonoma "Junior" Spring Turkey Hunt - Area 1 Hunt Dates: April 5 and 6, 2003

Contact: (707) 944-5500. How to Apply: Ten hunters will be drawn for each hunt, and each junior hunter can take one (1) hunting guest. The junior hunter can take either another licensed junior hunter or an adult hunter. All juniors must be accompanied by an adult. Fill out a postcard with the junior hunter's name, address, phone number, hunting license number and hunt day requested. Send completed postcards to: Department of Fish and Game, Lake Sonoma "Junior" Spring Turkey Hunt, PO Box 47, Yountville, CA 94599. All applications must be received by 5:00pm on Thursday, February 27, 2003 and the drawing will be held on Friday, February 28, 2003.

Lake Mendocino - East of Ukiah. No spring turkey hunt program at Lake Mendocino this year. We hope to have a program again next year.

University of California at Browns Valley "Junior" Spring Turkey Hunt - The University of California Field Station is located 20 miles east of Marysville. This is the only hunting offered during the spring season. Fifteen openings for junior hunters are available for each of the 4 hunt days. See application in this issue.

Cache Creek Wildlife Area (3,860 acre of DFG land) and Cache Creek Management Area (85,000 acres of BLM land) in Lake, Yolo and Colusa Counties. Habitat: Oak grassland and dense chaparral. There are 3 access points. 1. North Fork Cache Creek Trailhead; from Interstate Highway 5 at Williams, go west on Highway 20 approximately 33 miles to the parking lot on the south side of the road. The entrance is immediately past where Highway 20 crosses over North Fork Cache Creek. From Highway 101 at Calpella, go east on Highway 20 about 48 miles to the parking lot. 2. Langa Peak Road Access; take Highway 16 south of Highway 20 to County Road 40. Follow the winding switchbacks for 4.5 miles to Langa Peak Road. Langa Peak road is a 4WD road. 3. Davis Street Access; take Highway 53 south off Highway 20 to 40th Avenue and turn left at the stop light. Make immediate left and follow to Davis Street. Access is to the left of the Clearlake landfill entrance. Deer, bear, wild pig, coyote, wild turkey, CA and mtn quail, mourning dove, tree squirrel, band-tailed pigeon, cottontail and jackrabbit are present. An entry permit for hunting, issued by special drawing by the DFG, is required for the first two days of the spring turkey season. The Payne Ranch (13,000 acres) was recently purchased to improve habitat for wildlife and the tule elk herd. Call the BLM Ukiah office at (707) 468-4000 for a detailed map or the DFG at (707) 944-5500

Cache Creek Management Area Spring Wild Turkey Hunt: Drawing Open to All. Wild turkey hunts for the opening weekend of the spring wild turkey season at Cache Creek Wildlife Area (DFG) and Cache Creek Management Area (BLM) on March 29-30, 2003 will be by permit only, with 40, 2-day permits issued by special drawings. Hunting open to all on Monday, March 31.

Drawing: All applications must be received by 5:00 pm, Thursday, March 6, 2003 to be included in the drawing on March 7, 2003. Applications: Only one application per hunter. Two hunters may apply on one application. Submit a standard Postal Service size postcard (one or two hunters per card) with name & mailing address, telephone number, and hunting license number of each hunter.

Mail to: DFG, Cache Creek Spring Turkey Hunt, PO Box 47, Yountville, CA 94599. Successful applicants will be issued a permit by mail. Additional information and a map of the hunt area will be included.

Places to Hunt Wild Turkeys Without a Reservation:

Feather River Wildlife Area - Type C Area - Units are located 23-28 miles north of Sacramento on both sides of the Feather River. This WA is occasionally flooded during spring turkey season. The Lake of the Woods Unit (700 acres) is located 25 miles north of Sacramento and 10 miles south of Marysville on Feather River Boulevard. Walk-in access is south from the Star Bend Fishing Access. The Nelson Slough Unit (800 acres) is located 23 miles north of Sacramento, 17 miles south of Yuba City and under the Highway 99 Feather River Bridge. Access is east or west on Sacramento Avenue. The O'Connor Lake's Unit (471 acres) and the Abbott Lake Unit (439 acres) are 30 miles north of Sacramento and 10 miles south of Yuba City at the east end of Star Bend Road. Park on top of the levee at the end of Star Bend Road. For maps call DFG, Region 2 at (916) 358-2900.

Lake Oroville State Recreation Area - The majority of the Recreation Area lands consists of a narrow strip surrounding Oroville Lake extending a minimum of 300 feet from the high water line to one-half mile or more in some areas. Some U.S. Forest Service and BLM lands adjoin the Recreation Area. Hunting on or from the water surface of Lake Oroville is prohibited. For a map contact the Lake Oroville State Recreation Area, 400 Glen Drive, Oroville, CA 95966 or call (916) 538-2200 or 538-2219.

State Game Refuge 1G in Tehama County is open for spring turkey hunting - 45 miles east of Red Bluff via Highway 36. State Game Refuges are normally closed to all hunting. For a map call DFG, Region 1 at (530) 225-2300.

Tehama Wildlife Area (44,601 acres - Type C Area) - Open for hunting all year except that no person shall enter that portion of the Tehama Wildlife Area lying south of Antelope Creek during the period beginning on the first Monday in December through the last Friday in March. Habitat is rolling hills covered with oak trees and brush. All of the area is open for turkey hunting. No pig hunting except during February/March by USE PERMIT only. Deer, wild turkey, coyotes, and CA quail, are popular game species. Located 23 miles east of Red Bluff via Highway 36. Call (530) 597-2201 for a map or info.

Black Butte Reservoir (3000 acres) - 25 miles west of Chico via Highway 32 and Newville Road. For a map contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 19225 Newville Road, Orland, CA 95963 or call (916) 865-4781.

Auburn State Recreation Area (30,000 acres) - South of Interstate 80 near Auburn. Hunting is allowed from Sept. 1 to Jan. 31 and spring turkey season. Only shotguns, rifles or bows and arrows may be used. Popular game species include deer, valley quail, dove, bandtail pigeon and wild turkey. Write the Auburn State RA, CA Dept. of Parks and Recreation, P.O. Box 3266, Auburn, CA 95604 or call (916) 885-4527/988-0205 for maps and information.

New Hogan Lake (400 acres) - 30 miles east of Stockton. For a map contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 2713 Hogan Dam Blvd., Valley Springs, CA 95252 or call (209) 772-1343.

Mendocino NF east of Covelo (Mendocino County) and in the Lake Pillsbury area (Lake County). For a map contact the Mendocino NF, 420 East Laurel St., Willows, CA 95988 or call (916) 934-3316.

Indian Valley Wildlife Area (1,600 acres of DFG land) and Indian Valley Management Area (50,000 acres of BLM land) in Lake and Colusa Counties -Habitat: Dense chaparral with small scattered pockets of oak grassland. Access: About 27 miles west of Williams or 14 miles east of Clearlake Oaks on Highway 20 to Walker Ridge Road. Travel north on Walker Ridge Road to Indian Valley Reservoir. Deer, bear, wild pig, coyote, wild turkey, waterfowl, CA and mtn quail, dove, tree squirrel, cottontail and jackrabbit are present. The BLM has developed two campgrounds with water and restroom facilities. A boat ramp is available at the north and south ends of the lake. Warmwater fishing in the reservoir for largemouth bass, crappie, rainbow trout, bluegill and catfish. Cache Creek below the reservoir is planted with brown trout and is open during trout season. BLM in Ukiah at 707 468-4000.

Cow Mountain Recreation Area (50,000 acres of BLM land) in Lake and Mendocino Counties. Habitat: Rugged chaparral with some oak woodland. Access from Ukiah, 5 miles via Talmage and Mill Creek roads. Access from Lakeport, 5 miles via Scott Creek Road which is a rugged unimproved dirt road, and is closed during the winter due to impassable high water. Because these roads are narrow and winding with steep slopes, large recreational vehicles and travel trailers are not recommended. The rifle range, located just north of the Willow Creek Day Use Site, has been developed specifically for target shooting. There are 5 camping areas. The 27,000 acre North Cow Mountain RA is closed to Off-Highway Vehicles. The 23,000 acre South Cow Mountain Off-Highway Vehicle RA has developed roads for OHV recreation. Open to hunting all year during legal seasons. Deer, bear, wild pig, coyote, wild turkey, CA quail, dove, tree squirrel, band-tailed pigeon, cottontail and jackrabbit are present. Bureau of Land Mgt in Ukiah (707) 468-4000.

Horseshoe Ranch Wildlife Area - Hunting daily during hunting seasons - Type C wildlife area - 8600 acres of oak woodland. Location about 14 miles north of Yreka near the Oregon border. From the south, take the Henley-Hornbrook exit off Interstate 5 and proceed east (right) on Copco Road for about 12 miles to the Horseshoe Ranch Wildlife Area entrance sign and turn left for ¼ mile to the parking area. California and mountain quail, mourning dove, deer and black-tailed jackrabbits are present. For a map call (530) 459-3926.

National Forests in the Sierras Nevada Mtns.- The lower elevation areas sometimes have turkeys. Purchase a National Forest map and hike the lowest elevation areas looking for turkey sign in the oak groves.



California Wild Turkey Expo Set for March 1

The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and Wilderness Unlimited (WU) will co-sponsor the Sixth Annual Wild Turkey Expo on Saturday, March 1, in Fair Oaks near Sacramento. The seminar is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church, 11427 Fair Oaks Blvd.

The popular, free event, which has drawn standing-room-only crowds in the past, will provide comprehensive information on wild turkey biology and hunting, with a strong focus on where to hunt turkeys on public land. Topics include: how to locate the birds; where to hunt on public land; turkey calling techniques; turkey behavior; the use of camouflage, shotguns and archery equipment; and wild turkey cooking tips. There will also be an equipment demonstration outside, weather permitting.

Representatives from sporting goods manufacturers and hunting/conservation organizations will be on hand to display the latest equipment and share information about other hunting opportunities. Lunch will be provided. A \$3 donation will be welcomed.

The event's featured speaker will be veteran turkey hunter, outdoor writer and WU member Terry Knight, who will demonstrate turkey calling techniques, the effective use of decoys and camouflage, and proper archery and shotgun hunting Techniques. Knight has served as the president of the California State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation and operated a successful turkey guiding business for more than 11 years. He annually conducts several training seminars on hunting wild turkeys throughout Northern California.

Dan Stahlman, an expert turkey hunter and gunsmith, will discuss shotgun selection, shooting, and patterning, and the proper loads to use.

Back by popular demand will be a seminar on archery hunting for turkeys by Ron Sneed. Also, champion turkey caller Bruce Wurth, owner of American Friction which manufactures turkey calls, will be on hand to demonstrate his award-winning calls. A question and answer period will follow.

DFG's wild turkey biologist Scott Gardner will offer insight on the wild turkey's habitat and where to find them on public lands. In addition to Gardner, other DFG personnel will be available to answer questions.

The 6 1/2-hour seminar is free and open to the public. For information, contact Susan Herrgesell, Advanced Hunter Education Program Coordinator, DFG (916) 653-7448, and Terry Knight can be reached at (707) 263-1699.

FREE WILD TURKEY HUNTING SEMINARS

Oakley - Hook, Line and Sinker, 3100 Main Street. Call 925 625-2441 for date and time in March.

Chico - Chico Sportsmen's Den, 465 East 20th Street. 1. Sun. March 9, 1 PM Speaker - Bruce Wurth, owner of American Friction Slate and Box Calls. 2. March 12, 6:30 PM Speaker - Matt Bremer from Primos Hunting Call Company. More Info: Contact Dave or Duane at 530 891-5238.

Walnut Creek - Woolley's Sporting Life, 1684 Locust St., Thursday, Feb. 20, 6:30 PM. More Info: Limited space so call to reserve a seat - 925 686-1985. Speaker - Bruce Wurth, owner of American Friction Slate and Box Calls.

San Pablo - The Bow Rack, 1085 Broadway Ave., Sun. Feb. 23, 1 PM Speaker - Bruce Wurth, owner of American Friction Slate and Box Calls. More info: 510 236-8306

SUISUN MARSH FIELD DAY SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2003

The California Waterfowl Association has organized an entertaining and informational field day at the Grizzly Island Wildlife Area located 15 miles south of Fairfield. Take Highway 12 to Grizzly Road and turn south to the wildlife area headquarters. Admission to the event is FREE, with a BBQ lunch and refreshments available at an additional charge. It runs from 9am-5pm. There will be a youth waterfowl calling contest as well as many other activities for the children. Wildlife artists, decoy carvers, dog trainers, duck callers, and manufactures representatives will be some of the people on hand. For more info call CWA @ (916)648-1406.

SPECIAL "JUNIOR" TURKEY HUNT - Spring 2003 April 12th, 13th, 26th, 27th

**University of California - Sierra Foothill Research & Extension Center
8279 Scott Forbes Road Browns Valley, CA 95918-9636**



1. This junior turkey hunt is sponsored by the U.C. Sierra Foothill Research & Extension Center and the Department of Fish and Game Gamebird Heritage Program. Hunters will be selected by lottery. The cost is \$20.00 per hunter (no cost until selected). A current junior hunting license is required. Each junior hunter, or junior hunting party, must be accompanied by a non-hunting adult (a guide could serve as the non-hunting adult, as long as a parent or legal guardian signifies this on the minor's release form).

2. A drawing will be held on **March 3, 2003**. If your name is drawn, you will receive notification by March 10th. Only one application per junior hunter. Up to two junior hunters may be selected together as a party and they should submit their applications together. **It is important to carefully read the application and follow the instructions.** If you do not indicate a guide is desired, one will **not** be available for you.

3. **Policy Statement** - If you participated in this hunt last year (April 2002), you will not be eligible to participate in this year's program. This will give more junior hunters an opportunity to participate in this program. If you still possess a Jr. License next spring, you will be eligible once again.

4. An orientation tour of the area is available the evening before each hunt, but it is not required. You will be able to scout your assigned area that evening, following orientation, until dark.

5. If you have any questions, call the Department of Fish and Game at (530) 743-5068. Applications can be copied for others interested in the lottery.

(Complete this section and return — **Please print neatly**)

Name: _____ Jr. Hunting License # _____
or scheduled Hunter Safety Course completion date: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Area Code _____ Home Phone _____

If available, would you like an experienced turkey hunter to accompany you and your adult companion?

YES NO Circle One

Date Choice: April 12 _____, April 13 _____, April 26 _____, April 27 _____

(Mark 1, 2, 3, & 4 for date preferences, 1 for first choice, 4 for last, and N/A for dates not available)

Mail to: U.C. Junior Turkey Hunt, 8279 Scott Forbes Road, Browns Valley, CA 95918-9636 (or) Fax to: (530) 639-2419

Illegible or incomplete applications will be disqualified.

RABBIT SEASON HERE JULY 1 (proposed)

WILDLIFE AREAS OFFER MANY HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES

California hunters are looking forward to another rabbit season. The proposed season begins July 1 and extends through January 25, 2004 for cottontail, brush, pygmy and snowshoe rabbits. Jackrabbit season remains open year round.

Legal shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset. The best time to hunt rabbits is early morning and at sunset, when they're most active. The limit is five per day, and 10 in possession statewide. There is no limit for black-tailed and white-tailed jackrabbits. Most shotguns, archery and rifles (including air rifles firing pellets, excluding BB's, powered by compressed air or gas) are legal for rabbit hunting.

In 2001, 13,046 California hunters reported the harvest of about 83,528 cottontails, and 9,850 California hunters harvested 75,912 jack rabbits.

Rabbits are famous for speed, which is why they're so much fun to hunt. Jackrabbits hide by "freezing" in cover, but once they're jumped they head for open country. Cottontails run in a big circle after they're jumped, so many hunters will use a dog to trail the rabbit while the hunter waits for it to return. Look for rabbits in brushy, rocky areas where they can hide from predators. Brushy, stream side habitat is also a favorite. Wildlife areas along the major rivers provide some of the best rabbit hunting.

If you are interested in creating brush piles or rock piles for rabbit habitat that will provide game for years to come, call Wildlife Biologist Dale Whitmore at (530) 743-5068 and ask for tips on where and how to make a wildlife brush pile. A sportsmen club or eagle scout project on either public or private lands are great locations for these brushpiles.

Rabbits vary greatly in size, from less than a pound for a pygmy rabbit, to more than 10 pounds for a white-tailed jackrabbit. There are seven species of rabbit in California.

Recommendation- The Feather River Wildlife Area units located between Sacramento and Marysville-Yuba City had an abundance of cottontail rabbits in 2002. The combination of no flooding since 1997, good habitat, and favorable spring weather for upland game species produced an abundance of rabbits. If the 2003 spring flooding is not severe, 2003 should be another very good year. Bring your shotgun (no rifles or pistols are allowed), be there at daylight, enjoy the sunrise and good hunting. The Grizzly Island Wildlife Area will be open for rabbit hunting from July 1-27, 2003

Most of the Department's wildlife areas are open to rabbit hunting. There may, however, be restrictions to the method of take. For a complete listing of state and federal wildlife areas open to hunting, refer to the 2002 *California Regulations For Hunting and Other Public Uses On State and Federal Areas* (the new booklet for 2003 will be available in late September). For complete hunting regulations consult the 2003 *California Hunting Regulations, Mammals and Furbearers* which is available at all Department of Fish and Game offices and license agents in June.

Gray Lodge Wildlife Area Annual Clean Up Day Saturday, April 5, 2003

Here is an opportunity to give back to Gray Lodge what waterfowl hunters and outdoor enthusiasts have benefited from over the past year. California Waterfowl Association (CWA) is seeking volunteers for light duty clean up, projects and wood duck nest box inspection. Plenty of activities will also be available to children of all ages. All family members are encouraged to participate, as the day will be educational, entertaining, and most importantly, improve the quality of our wildlife habitat.

Start time is 8:00 am. Coffee, juice and breakfast snacks will be provided prior to hitting the field with an excellent barbecue lunch, raffle and silent action ending the day around mid afternoon. A small fee, \$7.50 for adults/\$5.00 for kids 16 and under, will be charged to those eating lunch to help offset food costs.

If you plan on attending or need more information, please contact Phil Fischer, 140 Mount Whitney Way, Clayton, CA 94517, (925) 827-7953(day), (925) 672-3475 (evening) or Giantsfan25@msn.com. You can also call Gray Lodge and they can mail or fax you a copy of the flyer with the lunch registration form. Hope to see you there!

California Waterfowl Association, Kids Camps

The California Waterfowl Association (CWA) will host "Kids Camps" this summer at Red Bluff in northern California. Campers from 10-14 years of age learn the basics of outdoor responsibility. Hunting and fishing skills are taught through the California Hunter Education Program. Campers are tested at the end of their stay and receive the hunter safety certificate with a passing score.

Campers who already have their hunter education certificate improve their shooting, archery, fly-tying, fly and bait fishing, tracking, bird calling, dog training, survival and first aid, identification and conservation skills. Many outdoor activities keep the campers busy and focused on a great week in the outdoors.

Beginning camps are for girls and boys ages 10-14 who do not have their Hunter Education Certificate and are from June 22-27 and July 6-11, 2003.

Advanced camps are for girls and boys ages 10-14 who have their Hunter Education Certificate and are from June 15-2- and July 13-18, 2003.

Camps are filled on a first come first-served basis. Cost is \$500/camper. For more information, please contact either Debbie Pfanner (916) 791-5535, or Judy Oswald at (530) 757-2361, or the CWA office at (916) 648-1406.

CALIFORNIA WOOD DUCK PROGRAM BANQUET IN FAIRFIELD - April 5, 2003

The California Waterfowl Association organizes this event to fund the Wood Duck Box Program. Last year about 7000 wood duck boxes were monitored by 500 volunteers and over 30,000 ducklings were hatched. Since 1991 well over 180,000 ducklings have been hatched. Please come out and support our wood ducks!

What: Oak Smoked Bar-B-Q Prime Rib and Chicken Dinner

When: Saturday, April 5, 2003, Doors open at 5:30 pm and dinner is at 7:00 pm.

Where: Fairfield Community Center in Fairfield. From Highway 12, take Pennsylvania Avenue exit, make right turn on Pennsylvania and right on Kentucky Street. From I-80, exit Travis Blvd eastbound to Pennsylvania southbound and left on Kentucky to 1000 Kentucky Street.

Cost: \$50/adult includes CWA membership; \$30 for youth under 18 includes Sprig membership.

Reservations or more info: Call CWA at 916 648-1406

An auction and raffle will also be held. Hope to see you there!

National Forest Maps

Need a National Forest Map to locate your hunting area and what is around it? Send a request and a check to **USDA Forest Service, Attn: Map Sales, PO Box 587, Camino, CA 95709** or call 530 647-5390 and pay with a credit card. No postage or handling charge. Maps are available for the entire state.

Here are a few of the northern California national forest/wilderness maps and their prices: Eldorado \$6, Klamath \$6, Inyo \$6, Lake Tahoe Basin \$6, Mendocino \$6, Modoc \$6, Plumas \$6, Sequoia \$7, Shasta-Trinity \$6, Sierra \$6, Six Rivers \$6, Stanislaus \$6, Tahoe \$6, Toiyabe-Bridgeport Ranger District (RD) \$6, Toiyabe-Carson RD \$6, Ansel Adams \$6, Bucks Lake \$6, Carson-Iceberg \$6, Desolation \$7, Dick Smith \$6, Dinkey Lakes \$6, Emigrant \$7, Ishi-Caribou & Thousand Lakes \$7, Mt. Shasta/Castle Crags \$7, and Yolla Bolly/Middle Eel \$7.

Hunters and Public Relations - By Dale Whitmore, DFG Wildlife Biologist and Hunter

A recent Discovery Channel program told about 2 female black bear cubs raised in the Maine woods by a knowledgeable person. The bears were not confined and became very accustomed to the man who spent a large amount of time becoming familiar with them. These were the first ever known free ranging bears radio collared with out the used of a tranquilizer. The man simply attached the collars while the bears were licking him. The hour long program was filled with many tidbits of new information about black bears and their habits. One of the two bears had a cub born while a live camera was running in the den. Near the end of the program, millions of people heard about how one of the bears with a white radio collar around its neck was legally killed by a bear hunter.

The point of this article is to discuss how a hunter can help avoid alienating the general public. The bear hunter was quoted as saying that he saw the collar around the bear's neck, but it was bear season and it was legal for him to kill the bear. The bear hunter was legally correct in his statement and in his harvesting of the bear, but the public relations damage was done. The bear hunter unwittingly angered many people watching that program. People's emotions about animal welfare or their own safety around hunters with guns are often difficult to rationally discuss. Validation and understanding of the other person's fears or concerns is usually the first step to mutual understanding. Here are some of the steps we can take as hunters to help others understand our sport:

1. Avoid hunting near homes, campgrounds and other locations where people frequent. Be familiar with the location of buildings and livestock when hunting. State law states that "It is unlawful for any person, other than the owner, person in possession of the premises, or a person having the express permission of the owner or person in possession of the premises, to hunt or to discharge while hunting, any firearm or other deadly weapon within 150 yards of any occupied dwelling house, residence, or other building or any barn or other outbuilding used in connection therewith. The 150-yard area is a "safety zone"." For those who understand shotguns and their range, 150 yards seems like an adequate safety zone. For those not familiar with shotguns, 150 yards has no meaning and some people fear for themselves and their pets and livestock when they hear guns going off. Many public lands have residences immediately adjacent to or within their boundaries. More homes are being built in rural areas every year. Place distance between you and inhabited areas.

2. Trespassing on another's property is a violation of the law and creates ill will toward hunters. Check with the Department of Fish and Game, U. S. Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management for public lands near you. Several wildlife area maps for the northern California area are available free by calling 530 846-7500.

3. Muzzle up, action open when around other people (hunters or non-hunters) with a rifle or shotgun. Having the gun cased can reduce the anxiety level.

4. Invite a young person or friend out hunting with you on your next hunting trip. Just having the young person along for the walk after quail or the hunt from the duck blind would be a new experience. It may even prompt that person to take the hunter safety course. An invite to the trap range does not require a hunting license to shoot and provides a time to teach gun safety to a new person. There are a lot of hunters who have given up hunting because they don't have a place to hunt or someone to hunt with. Less than 1% of California's population bought a hunting license last year. From the 1930's through the 1960's about 4% of our population bought a hunting license each year. Fewer people are hunting and even fewer understand what hunting is all about.

By applying these techniques, State laws and good ol' common sense, we can continue to enjoy our sport that has such strong ties to our heritage. Unfortunately, times have changed, and with each barrage of negative publicity comes the added threat to hunting and other gun sports. It seems as if mass public education does not carry near the weight that individual, one-on-one, personal experience will. Inviting another person to hunt or shoot can help bridge the distance between hunters and the public. So lets all do our part to promote and protect the sport we love.

February 2003

- 1/31-2/2 San Mateo International Sportsmen's Expo Youth Fair, San Mateo County. (360) 693-3700
 1 "Fishing in the City" at Gibson Ranch County Park, Sacramento County. Free (916) 358-2872 www.dfg.ca.gov/coned/fishcity.html
 1-2 Youth Waterfowl Hunt Days, Balance of the state zone. (916) 445-3445 www.calwaterfowl.org
 1-2 Jr. Pheasant Hunt, San Luis Obispo County. (805) 238-4236
 6-9 San Diego Bay Bird Festival, San Diego County. \$ (877) 763-5483 www.sandiegonaturefestivals.org
 8 "Fishing in the City" at Hagan Park, Sacramento County. Free (916) 358-2872 www.dfg.ca.gov/coned/fishcity.html
 8-9 Jr. Wild Pig Hunt, Joice Island, Solano County, age 12 or older. (707) 425-3828
 14-16 Salton Sea International Bird Festival, Imperial County. (760) 344-5359
 14-16 Pleasanton International Sportsmen's Exposition Youth Fair, Alameda County. (360) 693-3700
 15 "Fishing in the City" at Elk Grove Park, Sacramento County. Free (916) 358-2872 www.dfg.ca.gov/coned/fishcity.html
 15-16 Wetlands Adventure, Sacramento NWR, Colusa County. (530) 934-2801
 15-16 Pacific Southwest Wildlife Arts, California Open, San Diego County. \$ (760) 945-8442
 22 Whale Festival, Ventura Harbor. (805) 644-0169

March 2003

- 1 Wild Turkey Exposition, Sacramento County. (916) 653-7448 www.dfg.ca.gov
 1 Youth Trapshooting Clinic, Sacramento Trapshooting, Sacramento County. \$ (916) 481-1336 www.sacramentotrap.com
 1 "Fishing in the City" at Florin Creek Park, Sacramento County. Free (916) 358-2872 www.dfg.ca.gov/coned/fishcity.html
 2-3 Mendocino Whale Festival, Mendocino County. (707) 961-6300
 8 "Fishing in the City" at Southside Park, Sacramento County. Free (916) 358-2872 www.dfg.ca.gov/coned/fishcity.html
 8-9 Wild on Wetlands Weekend, Merced County. \$ (209) 826-3508 www.losbanos.com/wow.htm
 9 "Fishing in the City" at Southside Park, Sacramento County. Free (916) 358-2872
 15 California Jr. Duck Stamp Contest Deadline. (530) 934-2801, (916) 648-1406 www.calwaterfowl.org
 15-16 Fort Bragg Whale Festival, Mendocino County. (707) 961-6300
 21-23 Mule Deer 2003-New Horizons, Silver Legacy, Reno, NV. (888) 375-3337 www.muledeer.org
 21-25 Aleutian Goose Festival, Crescent City, Del Norte County. \$ (800) 343-8300 www.redwoodlink.com/soar
 22 Volunteer Tree Planting, Los Banos Wildlife Area, Merced County. Free (209) 704-4772

April 2003

- 5 Creek Walk, Arcade Creek Park, Sacramento County. Free (916) 482-8377
 5 Gray Lodge Wildlife Area Cleanup, Butte County. Free (530) 846-7500
 5-6 Jr. Turkey Hunt, Lake Sonoma. (707) 994-2024
 9-13 Yuma Birding & Nature Festival, Yuma County, AZ. \$ (928) 376-0100 www.yumabirding.org
 12 Earth Day Festival at the Sacramento Zoo, Sacramento County. \$ (916) 264-5888
 12 Creek Week Celebration, Sacramento County. Free (916) 482-8377
 12-13 Heron Days Festival, Lake County. \$ (707) 994-2024 www.redbudaudubon.org/events.htm
 12-13 Western States Gun Dog Expo, Thunder Hill Pheasant Club & Blue Ridge Kennels. Glenn County. \$ (530) 934-2146
 12,13,26,27 Jr. Turkey Hunt, Browns Valley, Yuba County. \$ (530) 743-5068
 12, 19, 26 Jr. Turkey Hunt, Tejon Ranch. Kern County. (559) 243-4005 ext 132 or 133
 12, 19, 26 Jr. Pheasant Hunt, Tejon Ranch, Kern County. (559) 243-4005 ext 132 or 133
 18-20 "Bucky Finn" Fishing Derby, Kern County. \$ (866) 578-4386
 18-20 Godwit Days Migratory Bird Festival, Humboldt County. \$ (707) 822-4500 www.godwitdays.com
 25-27 Kern Valley Bioregions Nature Festival, Kern County. \$ (760) 378-3044 http://frontpage.light-speed.net/KRP/field_trips.htm
 26 Return of the Terns, Bolsa Chica Reserve, Orange County. (714) 846-1114

\$ = Admission Fee



May 2003

- 3 International Migratory Bird Day at the Zoo, Sacramento County. \$ (916) 264-5888
 10 SF Bay International Migratory Bird Day Celebration, Alameda County. Free (408) 262-5513
 10-11 Walk on the Wildside Festival, Sacramento County. (916) 775-4421
 11 Mother's Day for all Species, Monterey County. (831) 728-2822
 23 Reservation deadline for CWA KIDS Camps, Tehama County. \$ (916) 791-5535 www.calwaterfowl.org



So You Want to Grow More Pheasants

A pheasant workshop was held in 2002 at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area to discuss how to increase pheasant numbers in the California Central Valley. Diversification of cover, water distribution and spring irrigations to produce abundant insects to feed the pheasant chicks, are important techniques for growing pheasants naturally. Due to the short-lived nature of pheasants, the status of the population depends largely upon production and survival of young. **Many people have noted that good annual crops of pheasants here in our Central Valley Mediterranean climate are generally produced by unusually late, wet springs or localized flooding.**

We are now reasonably sure that by plentiful and timely rainfall spreading moisture over wide areas, brood cover with high numbers of insects is developed nearly everywhere, surrounding or interspersed with essentially all of the nesting cover. Thus, wherever a hen happens to nest, she can hardly avoid bumping into a plentiful food supply for her chicks, and as a result we get very high juvenile recruitment in those years. The techniques for emulating Mother Nature are described in the 28 page [2002 Pheasant Workshop Summary Transactions](#). **If you would like a free copy, please call the Gray Lodge Wildlife Area at 530 846-7500 or Wildlife Biologist Dale Whitmore at 530 743-5068.**

Here is an excerpt from the experiences of the M & T Ranch west of Chico:

We winter-flooded the brood strips as they recommended, and later started the spring irrigations. But the source of the irrigation water for the smaller field was the Sacramento River, from pumps operating on natural gas. With the energy crisis last year, gas prices quadrupled, so that irrigation from this source was discontinued as economically infeasible. However, the "Dogleg" field was some distance away on another irrigation system using gravity flow water from Butte Creek, which made the continued irrigations feasible.

The results? I worked with Ed and our dogs in making adult hen/juvenile ratio counts in early August, before the older juveniles got too developed to tell from adults. In the 75 acre "Dogleg" field we flushed 4 adult roosters, 10 adult hens, and 56 juveniles, and we were aware of lots of birds that the dogs didn't get up – some groups of running birds scattered, and the dogs couldn't follow and get them all up. **But we flushed 70 pheasants in this 75 acre field, so that it had to have appreciably more than a bird per acre.** We then made the same counts in the 35-acre field where irrigation had been discontinued, and flushed a total of 1 hen with a brood of 3.

In later hunting the Dogleg field, hunters reported that birds were getting up in bunches and were circling around and landing somewhere in the field again. At least 30 roosters were bagged in this field, compared to 4 when it had previously been planted in milo. In hunting it on the last weekend of the season, we flushed 9 roosters, bagging 2 of them, and at least 50 hens.

M & T Ranch management has now discontinued planting any game farm birds for hunting and has doubled the area managed for pheasants.

Shooting Sports for Youth and Adults

Looking for shooting opportunities in your area? Check the yellow pages under "Guns and Gunsmiths" for rifle and shotgun ranges in your area. Many are open on weekends and evenings for low cost target or trap shooting. Some are private clubs which have weekly or monthly shooting events for non-member youth and/or adults. Call for details.

Redding – Redding Indoor Shooting Range, 4765 Caterpillar Road, (530) 241-6486.

Burney – Hat Creek Rifle and Pistol Club, (530) 335-7348.

Chico – Safer Arms Indoor Shooting Range, 255 Dominic Drive, (530) 893-2235

Orland – Black Butte Gun Club, Inc. (530) 865-2305

Paynes Creek – Tehama Shooters Assoc. Range, 26950 Manton Road, (530) 527-0650.

Susanville – Rice Canyon Range, (530) 257-3200.

Oroville – Oroville Public Range (unsupervised), Rabe Rd. off Larkin Rd. (530) 538-2236.

Marysville – Spenceville Public Range (unsupervised), Waldo Rd off of Smartville Rd, (530) 538-2236.

Yuba City – Sutter Rifle Range, Second St. near Sutter Co. Airport. (530) 671-3006.

Yuba City – Shooter's Paradise Indoor Range, 1407 Colusa Ave. (530) 673-4100.

Lincoln – Lincoln Rifle Club, Hwy 65 1 mile north of Lincoln, (916) 645-7728

Wilton – Alta Mesa Gun Club

Auburn – Auburn Trapshooting Club, 11540 Lorensen Rd., (916) 885-5748.

Sacramento – James Mangan Rifle & Pistol Range, 2140 34th Ave., (916) 427-9811

Sacramento – Sacramento Trapshooting Club, 3701 Fulton Ave., (916) 944-1711.

Rancho Murrieta area – Sacramento Valley Shooting Center, 15501 Meiss Rd., (916) 354-9668.

Rancho Cordova – Cordova Shooting Center, Corner of Sunrise Blvd and Douglas Rd., (916) 351-0205.

Woodland – Yolo Sportsmen's Assoc., Rd 29 & Rd. 95A on Aviation Ave., (916) 662-2349.

Grass Valley – The Range, (530) 273-4440.

Nevada City – Nevada County Sportsmen's Club, 11296 Banner Mtn. Trail, (530) 265-5135.

Manteca – Manteca Sportmen's Club, West on Maze Blvd. across Joaquin river, turn right onto Kasson Rd. to dead end, turn right over river to second house. (209) 823-7919.

Turlock – Turlock Sportsmen's Club, 13949 Carpenter Road, (209) 634-3951.

Modesto Rifle Club – Call Leon Umsted, (209) 522-4632.

Stockton – Pavillion Gun Range, 3008 E. Hammer Lane # 109, (209) 955-5885.

San Leandro – San Leandro Rifle and Pistol Range, 3001 Davis St. (510) 638-9605.

San Mateo – Coyote Point Range, 1601 Coyote Pt. Drive, (650) 573-2557.

Vacaville – The Shooting Gallery, 27 Commerce Place, (707) 449-4867.

Milpitas – Target Masters, 122 Minnis Circle, (408) 263-7468.

Antioch – Brentwood Rod and Gun Club, 356 Granite Circle, (925) 754-3691.

Concord – United Sportsmen's Club, 4700 Evora Rd., (925) 676-1987.

Cupertino – Sunnyvale Rod & Gun Club, 11998 Stevens Canyon Road., (408) 873-8255.

San Francisco – Pacific Rod & Gun Club, 520 John Muir Dr., (415) 586-8349.

San Jose – San Jose Municipal Pistol Range, 1580 S. 10th St., (408) 275-1738.

San Jose – Santa Clara County Fields Sports Park, 9580 9 Malech Rd., (408) 463-0652.

Hunter Education Training Schedule

Persons interested in going hunting this fall should be making plans now to take their required hunter safety course. Hunter education courses must include at least 10 hours of training in both hunter safety and wildlife conservation. Some courses also include shooting practice at a range. Volunteers teach the courses and may charge a fee of up to \$10 per person. Classes are given throughout the state. Check the list below to find a class in your area. If you cannot find a class, call the class recording at the regional office closest to your residence. If the recording does not list a class in your area, phone the Regional Hunter Education Coordinator and request information. Information on classes may also be obtained from sporting goods stores, license agents and sport shooting and hunting clubs.

Class Recordings: No. California and No. Coast Region (530) 225-2003; Sacramento Valley and Central Sierra Region (916) 351-0833; Central Coast Region (707) 944-5576; San Joaquin Valley and So. Sierra Region (209) 243-4027; or So. California Region (562) 590-5670.

Northern Calif. -North Coast Region

Regional Coordinator- Dave Smith (530) 225-2304
Eureka- Brad Smith (707) 443-6328
Redding- Marshall Jones (530) 225-1025
Redding (Home Study)-Dept. Of Fish and Game (530)225-2300

Sacramento Valley- Central Sierra Region

Regional Coordinator- Mark Lucero (916) 358-2908
Rancho Cordova – (916) 351-0538
West Sacramento- (916) 617- 4620
Sacramento-Elk Grove- Mike Green (916) 686-1852
Roseville-(916) 728-5500
Vacaville-(707) 449-4867
Yuba City-Marysville
Terry Oaks (530) 743-1518
Joe & Joan Becker (530) 751-7767
Chuck Wyllie (530) 671-9250
Grass Valley- Fred Pfadt (530) 372-4440
El Dorado County- Bill Adams (530) 622-3794
Jim Russell- (530) 622-2480
Cameron Park- Vernon Luce (530) 677-6996
(will give private classes)
Chico-(530) 896-9935

San Francisco Bay Area-Central Coast Region

Regional Coordinator- Tom Belt (707) 944-5544
Castro Valley-Chabot Gun Club (510) 569-0213
Dublin- Buck Buchanan (925) 828-6416
Hayward- Wilderness Unlimited (510) 785-4868
Livermore- Lorrie Ambrosino (925) 447-6682
San Leandro- San Leandro Optimist Club Rifle & Pistol Range (510) 638-9605
Brentwood – Chris Jenneihan (925) 625- 4347
Martinez- Scott Youell (925) 229-4867
Martinez Gun Club- (925) 372-9599
Concord-United Sportsman Inc., Register at 4770 Evora Rd. Concord
Concord-Cliff Ames (925) 685-5437

Lake County

Lakeport-Phil Phillips (707) 263-1585
Upper Lake-Joe Diaz (707) 275-9304

Marin County

San Rafael-Henry Hernandez (707) 769-8235
Ukiah-Robert Fuchs (707) 463-0434
Richard Turner (707) 485-0297

Monterey County

Hollister- Jim Miller (831) 679-5965
Hunter Liggett- Alfonzo Sanson (831) 386-2522
Monterey-G. Malloway (831) 626-6586
Salinas-Bob Monahan (831) 663-3224

Napa County

Napa- Sign up at Darwins Gun Exchange 2216 Monticello Rd. Napa

Napa- Napa Co. Sheriffs Office-Dep. Don Stanley (707) 253-4637

San Francisco County

San Francisco-John Brusco (650) 588-0924

San Mateo County

San Mateo-Coyote Point Shooting Range (408) 343-1280
So. San Francisco-Bill Tidwell (510) 713-8907

Santa Clara County

Morgan Hill- Coyote Valley Sporting Clays (408) 842-7578
San Jose-Sol Silverstein (408) 972-2360

Solano County

Suisun-Salvatore DiMarco (707) 425-2618
Vacaville-The Shooting Gallery (707) 449-4867
Vallejo-Warren Madison (707) 642-9094

Sonoma County

Healdsburg-Healdsburg Police Dept.-Officer Steve Moore (707) 431-3377
Sonoma-Sam Grow (707) 648-0410
Santa Rosa-Bob Biondi (707) 543-3737

Bowhunting Classes

Grass Valley-Dave Deacon (530) 268-3549
Esparto- Marshall Myers (530) 787-3259
Stockton- John Waters (209) 463-8860
Roseville-Robert Moore (916) 723-6793
Yuba City-(530) 671-0341 or (530) 751-7767

Portola Rotary Clubs Lake Davis Fishing Derby

The weekend of June 7-8, 2003 is the date for this popular annual event that offers monetary prizes up to \$20,000 for the right catch! (tagged fish) Also includes prizes from local merchants and others. Entry fee is \$10.00 per person. All proceeds will be used to provide scholarships and fund local community needs. Pre-register by calling Ken @ (530) 832-4088 weekdays, Dave @ (530) 836-1680 or you can sign up at the Lake the day of the event. See you there!

FISHING ON STATE WILDLIFE AREAS

When was the last time you got out with a friend or child and fished. There are several public wildlife areas with lots of fish and fishing holes. Places where you can pack a lunch or supper and have a great time fishing, watching wildlife and exploring the wildlife habitat. See the Information Center page in this issue for phone numbers to request a map.

Gray Lodge WA - Ten miles east of Gridley - There are several ponds and miles of canals with bass, perch, crappie, catfish and carp. The area is open seven days a week after waterfowl season closes.

Oroville WA - West of Oroville - Bass, bluegill, green sunfish, crappie, and channel catfish are available in the numerous dredger ponds and Thermolito Afterbay. The Feather River has shad and striped bass in April and May; and salmon from May through September. The Thermolito Afterbay outlet into the Feather River is a popular fishing location.

Upper Butte Basin WA - Little Dry Creek Unit - 12 miles west of Gridley on the Gridley-Colusa Highway to Parking Lot 1.
Howard Slough Unit - 11 miles west of Highway 99 and 5 miles east of Butte City on Highway 162. Both areas provide access to Butte Creek and many canals. Species include bass, catfish, and bluegill. Butte Creek is closed to salmon fishing. Foot and bicycle traffic only allowed beyond the parking lots. Be sure to watch for boundary/closed zone signs.

Spenceville WA - 19 miles east of Marysville - There are 6 large ponds, numerous smaller ponds in all of the drainages, Dry Creek, Little Dry Creek and Cox Creek to fish in. Bass, bluegill and catfish are available.

Sutter Bypass WA - 20 miles west of Yuba City - Access from Highways 20 and 113, Bogue Road, Hughes Road, Sacramento Avenue and numerous other county roads. Bass, catfish and bluegill are available through out the year in either the east or west bypass channels. Salmon are common in October and November.

Grizzly Island WA - 6 miles south of Fairfield on Grizzly Island Road - Fishing is daily from February 3 to July 27, 2003 and daily in September, after the close of the tule elk season. From October 1 until the end of the waterfowl hunting season, fishing is allowed only in Montezuma Slough. Fishing is available all year at the nearby Island Slough WA, Montezuma Slough Unit (Beldon's Landing), and Hill Slough WA. Striped bass and sturgeon are the common fish.

Yolo Bypass WA - 3 miles east of Davis - Open 7 days a week during the non-waterfowl season from sunrise to sunset. Bass, catfish and bluegill are available in the slough.

White Slough WA - About 7 miles west of Lodi and 13 miles north of Stockton. The area is a series of 9 rectangular ponds running parallel and west of Interstate 5. Call (916) 358-2900 for a map of any of the above areas.



The Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Program (BOW) is an award winning outdoor skills program sponsored by the California Department of Fish and Game, dedicated to provide outdoor educational opportunities to women in a supportive environment. We offer two three-day workshops per year and a number of topic specific or Beyond Bow classes. You must be 18 years of age or older to attend.

Please check our events calendar and feel free to contact us with any questions you might have. We offer an array of outdoor workshops and are especially geared toward the novice outdoors woman. We look forward to seeing you at a workshop soon.

Direct Your Questions to: Susan Herrgesell, Coordinator 916. 653.7448 Lesla Johnston, Assistant Coordinator 916. 653.7748

March 7-9	<u>Cross Country Ski Trip</u>	Mammoth Lakes, CA
March 14-16	<u>Birding With Brian</u>	To Be Announced
March 21-23	<u>Map & Compass and Field Orienteering</u>	Joshua Tree National Park
March 29	<u>Hiking with Hiking Poles Level -1</u>	Jack London State Historic Park
April 11-13	<u>Multi-Course Workshop</u>	Graeagle, CA <i>not yet taking registration TBA</i>
May 2-4	<u>Fly Fishing with Deb and Sally</u>	Santa Barbara, CA
May 17	<u>Hiking Poles - Level 2</u>	Coloma, CA
May 24-25	<u>Whitewater Rafting</u>	Coloma, CA
June 6-8	<u>Drawing on Nature (Field Sketching)</u>	Yosemite, CA
June 8	<u>Hiking Poles - Level 1</u>	Pacific, CA
June 14	<u>Beginning Canoe & Kayak</u>	Folsom, CA
July 11-13	<u>Survival Skills Course</u>	El Dorado National Forest
July 27	<u>Kayak Tour</u>	To Be Announced
August 2	<u>A Day at the Range</u>	Morgan Hill, CA
August 22-24	<u>Backpacking</u>	Lassen Volcanic Park
September 13	<u>Hiking Poles - Level 2</u>	Big Basin State Park near Boulder Creek, CA
September 26-28	<u>Fly Fishing with Wilderness Unlimited</u>	Burney, CA
October 3-5	<u>Multi-Course Workshop</u>	Sanger, CA <i>not yet taking registration TBA</i>
October 25	<u>Hiking Poles - Level 2</u>	Marin County - Muir Woods
October 26	<u>Hiking Poles - Level 1</u>	Marin County - Muir Woods
TBA	<u>Pheasant Hunt with Wilderness Unlimited</u>	Williams, CA
November 14-16	<u>Birding with Brian</u>	Santa Barbara, CA
TBA	<u>Duck Hunt with Wilderness Unlimited</u>	TBA - Northern CA

Attention Subscribers!

Included on your mailing label is the expiration date for your subscription to Wing Beat News. If you do not renew your subscription to this newsletter before that date, your name will be dropped from our mailing list.

Thank you for continued enthusiasm for this publication and support of it's production by purchasing your Upland Game Stamp!

Fishing in the City Program -- Sacramento Valley Spring and Summer 2003

Spring - Free Fishing Clinics with ponds stocked with trout! Free loan (for 50) of rods, bait and tackle. Anglers 16 years of age and older need a fishing license.

Sat., Feb. 15; 8:30-Noon, **Elk Grove Park**, \$4/car parking (**Next to Elk Grove High School, on Elk Grove**).

Sat., March 1; 8:30-Noon, **Florin Creek Park** (On Persimmon Ave in South Sacramento)

Sat., March 8: 8:30-Noon, **Southside Park** (6th and V Streets in **downtown Sacramento**)

Summer - Depending on program budget, the following ponds may have catfish planted on a weekly basis beginning in late May.
Oak Grove Regional Park in Stockton.

North Laguna Park - 1 mile west of Hwy 99 on Sheldon Road - Center Parkway at Jacinto Way

Mather Lake - ½ mile west of South Sunrise Blvd at Douglas & Eagles nest Road, \$2/car parking.

Elk Grove Park - Next to Elk Grove High School, on Elk Grove Florin Road in Elk Grove.

William Land Park - Land Park Drive across from Sacramento Zoo in Sacramento.

Gibson Ranch County Park - 1/4 mile west of Watt Ave on Elverta Road in **Elverta**, \$4/car parking.

Hagan Park -End of Chase Drive, off Coloma road in **Rancho Cordova**.

Southside Park - 6th and V Streets in **downtown Sacramento**.



For more info on when and where fish are being planted call (916) 358-2872.

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Note Expiration Date